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unscrewed the cap at one end and poured out a peculiar coarse grained green powder. "That's Kane's powder, and that's the way he prepared it. A wireless spark will explode one of these sensitized tubes with the powder in it a mile distant, if it's stored close to a wireless receiver, such as a ship carrier."

The red headed clerk, his eyes bulging, picked up the manila wrapper. "He said it was part of the Lucerne's wireless rig," he said, horrorstruck. "He marked it special to go to the wireless room."

ABSOLUTE silence followed. A man shifted his feet uneasily, and another drew a quick breath which was almost a gasp. Kane's face grew ghastly under his black beard.

"That package was simply intended for a metal expert abroad," he began in a last desperate effort. Then suddenly the man collapsed in a stricken heap. "My insurance money!" he said piteously, like a child deprived unjustly of a toy. "My experiments that meant so much for the world! Lost—all lost! Why should men like Vander have so much money to waste, when I could do so much good with a trifle of it? It's a conspiracy against me! They're afraid of me—I'm too big; but I've failed—failed—after all!" He buried his face in his hands, his body shaken with convulsive sobs.

Criminal though the man was, there was pathos in his utter self abandonment to these men, men of experiment and research themselves, the wreck of a finely attuned creative mentality. Even the Chief's grim expression relaxed.

Elmore was first to recover himself. He stepped quickly to Kane's side and laid a hand on his bowed shoulder. "Gentlemen," he said, "this matter should go no further. This is not a case of moral obliquity; it's brain collapse. The man has been working night and day for years; his brain simply gave out."

THE old Chief came forward manfully. "You've pinned the case right on this brother of Abel," he said to Roberts. "Wrecking ships by wireless right out of the clear air is pretty fiendish business; but

I guess, if you're satisfied, and you, Mr. Inspector, to let the doctors take a hand,—at first, anyway,—I am. But," he added with grudging admiration, "I don't see where you figured Kane in on this."

The Superintendent glanced sympathetically at the inventor, who was staring at him now with a dazed look of despair. "Elmore's chance remark about genius and madness being akin, and a hint of Kane's obsession about his experiments, put me on the right track," he said. "I've made something of a study of the psychological processes of the man with a fixed idea. An obsession of that sort destroys all sense of moral responsibility. Anyway, the explosion never had the earmarks of an infernal machine plot of the old fashioned sort. Spontaneous combustion was the only solution I could see, till Elmore explained that Kane's powder could be exploded by wireless and pointed out the necessity of placing the primer in a highly sensitized atmosphere, such as a wireless room aboard a steamship. Of course," he admitted as the old Chief shook his head, "Elmore himself could have placed the explosive anywhere aboard his uncle's yacht; but the man who sent the cartridge in the champagne case didn't have his opportunities to put where it would do the most damage. That's what caused the fizzle, and that's what Vander owes his life to."

"Well," the Chief growled, "killing a man's the worst use you can put him to, and locking him up comes pretty close to that same. With that brain of his, Kane's right about having a big part to play in the world, an' I guess doctors'll fit his case better than bars."

"Kane with the right treatment will probably recover," Roberts said. "For the present, at least, it can do no harm to restrict this knowledge to ourselves. He may be legally responsible; morally, certainly, he is not. Anyway," the Superintendent smiled, "this leaves the Vander case still in the hands of the agency. If a case from the void can't be classed as an act of Providence, then it's not a preventable accident by any human detective agency; so I guess I'm satisfied too."

The Clubwoman's Husband

Continued from page 8

private and personal, kept in lockers on account of real estate restrictions, just the same as in men's clubs, still they are not alike. However, the women are developing. All real growth is slow. For example, when women first began to organize in clubs, they had to pay a fine when they were absent. A woman's club then differed from a man's club in that a man could stay away when he wanted to and a woman couldn't. Wife informs me of this trifling bit of reminiscence. She says that was a long while ago. However, even to-day no woman's club is conducted in the least like a man's club, and any clubwoman who seeks to conduct herself in her club as her husband tells her to is sure to do it all wrong. Directly the masculine thought is smuggled into a woman's club meeting, everyone's feathers turn the wrong way, and there is no end of trouble. Wife assures me of this, and she ought to know. She belongs to fourteen clubs, including the Moral Prophylaxis Society, which she has recently joined, and not forgetting the Pet Dog Club, which is not a member of the federation, and two afternoon card clubs.

Disciplining the President

WHEN a woman's club has an unpopular president the insurgents have methods of torture all their own, not necessarily serious, although that depends upon the attitude of the president toward herself. The president should be a broad minded woman who doesn't mind gaffly torture. She mustn't mind seeing an old fashioned picture of herself in the newspapers, for example, neither must she care about an anonymous letter now and then, nor a few comic valentines in February. If she is strong enough to dodge these missiles and escape nervous prostration, then she is not only a clubbable woman, but she is also qualified for leadership.

The test is a telling one. Wife tells me the only way to do is to pay no attention to unfriendly communications, to drop them into the waste basket and pretend you did not receive them. She says that one time a club president tortured in this wise took her husband's advice on how to behave, and that in consequence she did everything all wrong, and that the aftermath was too terrible to talk about. It is just as sensible for a club husband to try to direct the affairs of a woman's club as it would be for him to sail

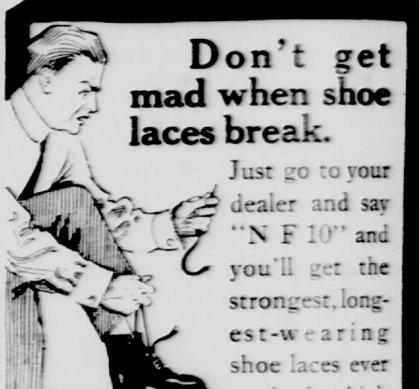
an airship from what he knows about an automobile.

Wife says there are several kinds of club presidents. There is the gentle voiced, suave club president, who is tactful and diplomatic, presides quietly, harmoniously, and soothingly, and is so great that no one suspects that it is just plain greatness that is her distinguishing qualification. There is the glad, effervescent club president, who regards every meeting as her own private party, and plays the hospitable hostess to perfection, scattering flowers of speech about her, including everyone in her glittering generalities, and has a dynamo so big that all present may take their little magnets to her to be recharged. There is the school-teacher type of club president, who may lack a sense of humor, but makes everyone come into line and behave.

Wife says that some clubs require the schoolma'am type of president, because they have to be intimidated into good behavior, otherwise they keep up a buzz during all the musical numbers on the program. Under pedagogic discipline they are afraid they will be rebuked in public, or have the gavel hammered at them or maybe thrown at them, or wear the dunce cap and sit up in front. One never feels sure what an irate and righteously indignant club president will do in certain circumstances; for she has determined to have discipline at whatever cost. Wife says all clubs cannot be led; some must be driven.

When the Federation Meets

THE acme of enjoyment in connection with club life is to be found at the General Federation. This meeting, which is held every two years in an elected city, compares in the feminine world with great political conventions. The women prepare for them just as the men do. Every club sends its delegates, and many others go along just to be sociable and to be there. Whirled through the country in the Federation Special, they swoop down on the town that has invited them, throw cares to the wind, and for a week have a blissful time. They own the hotels and cabs and streetcars, and they use the telephones, and call messengers, and hire automobiles and ferryboats, and monopolize restaurants, and wear flowers, and hold receptions, and eat icecream, and shake hands with the Governor, and are written up in the newspapers and their speeches printed, and



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